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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.    | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 09/748,970   | 12/27/2000  | Ralph M. Martin      | RM393A                 | 5888             |
| 23996  | 7590        | 05/03/2004           | EXAMINER               |                  |
| RICK MARTIN<br>PATENT LAW OFFICES OF RICK MARTIN, PC<br>416 COFFMAN STREET<br>LONGMONT, CO 80501 |             |                      | VANAMAN, FRANK BENNETT |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT               | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 3618                   |                  |

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|  |                 |                  |  |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|
| <b>SUPPLEMENTAL</b><br><b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s)     |  |
|  | 09/748,970      | MARTIN, RALPH M. |  |
|  | Examiner        | Art Unit         |  |
|  | Frank Vanaman   | 3618             |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview of 4/29/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 9-11, 14-17 and 26-34.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

*[Signature]* 4/29/04

Art Unit: 3618

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rick Martin on April 29, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 3, line 4, --release-- has been inserted between "forward" and "binding";

In claim 9, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 10, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 11, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 27, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 29, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 30, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 31, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --improvement-- inserted in its place;

In claim 32, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 33, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place;

In claim 34, line 1, "apparatus" has been deleted and --system-- inserted in its place.

In claim 26 line 5, "of the forward release" (first occurrence) has been deleted.

5/17  
4/20/04

Art Unit: 3618

These changes have been made to insure that the preambles of the dependent claims match those of the claims from which they depend, the change to claim 3 has been made for consistency of recitation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Vanaman whose telephone number is 703-308-0424. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

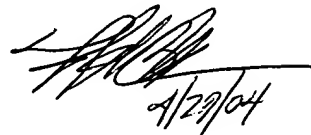
As of May 1, 2003, any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

Or faxed to one of the following fax servers:

Regular Communications/Amendments: 703-872-9326  
After Final Amendments: 703-872-9327  
Customer Service Communications: 703-872-9325

**F. VANAMAN**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 3618**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Vanaman', with the date '4/29/04' written below it.